

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Inventory Completion for Native American Human Remains and Associated Funerary Objects in the Possession of the University of Nebraska State Museum, Anthropology Research Division, Lincoln, NE.**AGENCY:** National Park Service**ACTION:** Notice

Notice is hereby given under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3003(d), of the completion of an inventory for Native American human remains and associated funerary objects from six sites in Nebraska currently in the possession of the University of Nebraska State Museum, Anthropology Research Division, Lincoln, NE.

A detailed inventory and assessment has been made by members of the professional staff of the University of Nebraska State Museum, in consultation with representatives of the Northern Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and the Southern Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma. Meetings with these tribal representatives have been held at the Nebraska State Museum on eight occasions during 1993-1995, in addition to many phone conversations during this period.

During 1936-1938, the Nebraska State Archeological Survey conducted excavations of these six sites under the authority of the W.P.A. Official Project #165-81-8095, Work Project #3140. Under agreement with the W.P.A., the collections resulting from these excavations were accessioned by the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Human remains from the Ponca Fort Site (*Nanza*), Knox County, NE consist of sixty-six individuals. No known individuals were identified. A total of 5,310 cultural items are associated with these burials including: wood (bark fragments, scraper, shaft smoother, shaft straightener); copper (beads, bracelets, bells, buttons, coils, neck rings, projectile points, rings, sheets, and cones); glass (beads, button), pipestone (bannerstone, pipe fragments), bone (bison tools, pendent, hair pipe bead); stone (grinding slab, unknown artifact); iron (ax, bracelets, projectile points, fragments); lead (bracelet, coils); leather fragments; shell (unmodified, gorgets).

The Ponca Fort Site's occupation by the Ponca Tribe is estimated as c. 1790-1800, based on associated cultural items and oral evidence of Ponca ethnohistoric informants in the 1930s (Wood 1965). The J.O. Dorsey "Omaha Map" (1884) indicated the presence of Ponca earthlodges on this site and Ponca ethnohistoric informant J. LaFleshe described "curvilinear entrenchments" and "many earth-lodges" inside the fort (Dorsey 1884). Prince Maximilian in 1832 described a uninhabited Ponca fort at this location. Cultural items found with the burials (such as copper fragments and trade beads), osteological evidence (such as copper staining, marked anterior dental wear, fair to good preservation, and morphological changes related to horseback riding), and the ethnohistoric evidence are consistent with Ponca occupation of the site.

Human remains from the Ponca Point Site (*Ma-azi*), Knox County, NE, consist of the remains of one infant. No known individuals were identified. Two associated funerary objects, consisting of one blue and one white glass bead, were found with this burial.

In 1966, Ponca tribal historian Peter LeClaire identified the Ponca Point site as "*Ma-azi*" or "the burying place on the top of the ridge" used by the Ponca in the historic period. Osteological evidence of red staining on the arm and rib and the two historic beads associated with this burial, the assessment of the site as protohistoric/historic Ponca, and Ponca ethnohistoric informants are consistent with Ponca occupation of this site.

Human remains from the Hogan Site, Knox County, NE consist of the remains of three individuals. No known individuals were identified. Two hundred eighty-one associated funerary objects include glass (beads), copper (button), and unidentified metal (pendant).

Describing this site in the Report to the Chancellor (1937), Bell reports that the Hogan site "has been used as a burial ground until very recent times by the Ponca." Osteological evidence of red staining, good preservation, morphological changes related to horseback riding, and the associated funerary objects are consistent with Ponca occupation of this site.

Human remains from the Davis Site, Knox County, NE consist of the remains of nine individuals. No known individuals were identified. Two hundred and thirty-eight associated funerary objects include: glass (beads, bottle); copper (bell, bracelets, buttons, bands, coils); iron (sheet, nails); pumice; wood (paper, post); tin (bowl, plate); textile (black cloth).

Reference is made to the Ponca living in this area as early as Truteau in 1795, Mackay in 1797, Clark in 1804, and Prince Maximilian in 1832. Ponca tribal members working on the site during excavations in 1937 identified these burials as Ponca. Osteological evidence of brachycephalic skulls, and associated cultural items are consistent with Ponca occupation of this site.

Human remains from the Minaric II Site (25KX9), Knox County, NE, consist of the remains of six individuals. No known individuals were identified. Sixty-eight associated funerary objects include: bone (antler fragments, antler scraper); pipestone (fragments); glass (beads); ceramics (sherds); copper (cones); sandstone abrader; and shells.

In 1938, Chief Birdhead identified the Minaric II Site as a Ponca village "occupied by the lesser chiefs and the common people of the tribe." Chief Birdhead also said that his grandfather had lived in one of the houses on the bottom land. In 1966, Ponca tribal historian Peter LeClaire compiled a list of Ponca sites, and identified the Minaric II site as "Farming Ground Village." Osteological evidence of copper staining, marked anterior dental wear, fair to good preservation, morphological changes related to horseback riding, and Ponca oral history are consistent with Ponca occupation of this site.

Human remains from the Minaric III Site, Knox County, NE, consist of the remains of one individual. No known individual was identified. Twenty-eight associated funerary objects include: glass (beads); metal (ring, copper necklace band); lithic (projectile point).

The archeological evidence of the Minaric III site, located between the Minaric II site and the Ponca Fort Site, indicates Ponca occupation during the historic period consistent with the surrounding Ponca sites. Osteological evidence of copper staining, marked anterior dental wear, good preservation, and the associated cultural items are consistent with Ponca occupation of this site.

Based on the above-mentioned information from these six sites, officials of the Nebraska State Museum have determined that, pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 3001 (2), there is a relationship of shared group identity which can be reasonably traced between these human remains and associated funerary objects and the Northern Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and the Southern Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma.

This notice has been sent to officials of the Northern Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and the Southern Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma. Representatives of any other Indian tribe that believes itself to be culturally affiliated with the human remains and associated funerary objects should contact Dr. Thomas Myers, Curator of Anthropology, University of Nebraska State Museum, Systematics Collections W436 Nebraska Hall, Lincoln, NE 68588-0544, telephone (402) 472-5033 before October 19, 1995. Repatriation of these human remains to the Northern Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and the Southern Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma may begin after this date if no additional claimants come forward.

Dated: September 13, 1995

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Archeology and Ethnography Program
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